

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1211

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0361

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SF (DIGGS, CHARLES C)

SUBJECT: DIGGS STATEMENT

REF: STATE 021568

CHAIRMAN DIGGS DELIERED TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT JAN SMUTS
AIRPORT TEXT OF HIS PREPARED ARRIVAL STATEMENT WITH REQUEST
IT BE TRANSMITTED TO JOAN WILLOUGHBY AT HIS OFFICE IN
WASHINGTON FOR RELEASE TO MEDIA UPON RECIPT BY HER. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT DIGGS STATEMENT: BEGIN TEXT:
ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR., U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AFRICA. JAN SMUTS AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA. JANUARY 30, 1975.
SINCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES HAVEPROHIBITED MY
HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE OR EVEN MEETING WITH THE PRESS DURING
MY OERNIGHT TRANSIT STOP AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT, I HAVE ASKED
THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE TO DISTRIBUTE THIS STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA.
IN FACT, NOT ONLY HAS THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME REFUSED TO GIVE
ME AVISA DURING MY CURRENT STUDY MISSION TO AFRICA, BUT IT
HAS ALSO DENIED MEEVEN THE BASIC COURTESIES CUSTOMARILY
AFFORDED VISITORS TRANSITING THROUGH THAT COUNTRY. FOR THE
FOURTH TIME IN SIX ATTEMPTS, I HAE BEEN REFUSED A VISA FOR
TRAVEL IN SOUTH AFRICA. (AND, ON ONE OTHER OCCASION, I
WAS NOTIFIED THAT THE VALID VISA I WAS AUTHORIZED IN 1971
WOULD BE DISHONORED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE VISA AGREEMENT
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BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND SOUTH AFRICA).

IN ADDITION, HOWEVER,

TO BEING REFUSED A VISA, I HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT I AM PERSONA NON GRATA TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THAT I WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER SOUTH AFRICA EVEN TO USE THE FACILITIES OF THE HOLIDAY INN JUST OUTSIDE THE JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT, THAT I WILL BE ALLOWED NO SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS, AND THAT I WILL BE PERMITTED TO MEET ONLY WITH U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED PASSES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ENTER THE TRANSIT ARE OF THE JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT. THESE UNREASONABLE AND UNWARRANTED RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT PLACED ON ANY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS WHO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS DISCRIMINATORY ACTION AND FOR MY BEING REGARDED PERSONA NON GRATA TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INCLUDED REFERENCES THAT THE PRESS CONFERENCE I HELD IN 1973 AT THE HOLIDAY INN NEAR JAN SMUTS AIRPORT WAS UNAUTHORIZED AND THAT I CANCELLED APPOINTMENTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS DURING MY SOLE VISIT TO THE COUNTRY.

I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FEARS MY PRESENCE MAY HAVE AN ENCOURAGING IMPACT ON THE BLACK MAJORITY IN SOUTH AFRICA- WHO HAVE DISPLAYED IN RECENT MONTHS, FOLLOWING THE PORTUGUESE COUP AND THE RESULTING ANNOUNCED JUNE INDEPENDENCE OF NEIGHBORING MOZAMBIQUE, A STRONGER THAN EVER DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN LIBERATION. THE SAME APPREHENSION WOULD APPLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S EXCLUDING ME FROM NAMIBIA, NOW BORDERING A SOON-TO-BE-LIBERATED ANGOLA WHICH I JUST VISITED.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SOUTH AFRICA'S DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES. USIS OFFICIAL RICHARD SAUNDERS AND HIS WIFE, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE REFUSED SERVICE AT A DURBAN HOTEL IN 1974 WHILE IN SOUTH AFRICA ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE BLACK. BLACKS FROM THE U.S. HAVE AS A GENERAL RULE, NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA. BLACK AMERICANS WHO ARE ALLOWED INTO SOUTH AFRICA ARE ASSIGNED TEMPORARY CLASSIFICATIONS SUCH AS "HONORARY WHITE" DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR VISIT.

CONDITIONS.

WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THE ORCHESTRATED, STEPPED-UP CAMPAIGN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO CONVINCE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND, IN PARTICULAR, OUR POLITICAL LEADERS

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AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS, IN FACT, CHANGING. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE IS THE PROCLAIMED POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTED AND IMPLEMENTED BY LAW.

A FEW BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE SITUATION THERE ARE ILLUSTRATIVE. AFRICANS CONSTITUTE 70 0/0 OF THE POPULATION, BUT ARE

EFFECTIVELY RESTRICTED TO THE 12 0/0 OF THE LAND WHICH IS THE
LEAST PRODUCTIVE AND THE POOREST.
WHITES, WHO FORM 18 0/0 OF
THE POPULATION, CONTROL 69 0/0 OF THE NATIONAL PURCHASING
POWER. THE RATIO OF EUROPEAN TO AFRICAN PER CAPITA INCOME
REACHED 19.2 TO 1 IN 1972, WHILE IN 1970 IT WAS 17.5 TO 1.
THUS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE INCOME OF THE TWO POPULATIONS IS
GROWING INSTEAD OF NARROWING AND MAY EVEN AMOUNT TO A 20 TO 1
RATIO. IT IS NO WONDER THAT THE BANTUSTAN LEADERS, RECOGNIZING
THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY EFFECTIVELY
KEEPS THE MAJORITY POPULATION FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE
COUNTRY'S WEALTH, HAVE REJECTED SO-CALLED " INDEPENDENCE"
FOR THE HOMELANDS. IN ADDITION TO BEING ECONOMICALLY EXPLOITED,
AFRICANS ARE TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE
GOVERNING POLITICAL SYSTEM. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT IS ALL
WHITE. AND, NOT ONE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTS THE
AFRICAN MAJORITY. THE BANTU LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND OTHER
URBAN ADVISORY COUNCILS ARE IN EFFECT ADVISORY ONLY, AND ARE
ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ALLWHITE PARLIAMENT, NOT TO THE BLACK
MAJORITY WHOSE VIEWS THEY PRESUME TO REPRESENT. THE
CONTINUING AND GROWING SPATE OF STRIKES BY BLACK WORKERS IN
SOUTH AFRICA IS EVIDENCE THAT THE MAJORITY IS INCREASINGLY
LOATHE TO ACCEPT CONTINUED REPRESSION BY THE MINORITY
GOVERNMENT.
SOUTH AFRICAN PROPAGANDA THAT VIABLE CHANGES ARE BEING MADE
BECAUSE A FEW PETTY APARTHEID PRACTICES ARE DIMINISHING IS
MISLEADING AND INCORRECT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INTEGRATION OF
A FEW PUBLIC PARKS, RESTAURANTS, AND LIBRARIES DOES NOTHING TO
MOVE THE MAJORITY POPULATION ONE STEP CLOSER TO PARTICIPATION
IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHERE IT COUNTS.

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1212

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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IN FACT, LEAST THERE BY ANY CONFUSION ON THIS POINT, THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, B.J.VORSTER, HAS CLARIFIED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. THE NOVEMBER 16, 1974 JOHANNESBURG STAR (INTERNATIONAL WEKLY EDITION) STATES:

" THE PRIME MINISTER

MR. VORSTER

TOLD THE LEADERS OF BLACK

AFRICA IN A MAJOR SPEECH IN ZEERUST THIS AFTERNOON THAT ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S PARLIAMENT FOR WHITES AND BLACKS WOULD NEVER COME ABOUT. " AND HE ISSUED A SERIOUS WARNING TO POLITICAL COMMENTATORS NOT TO CREATE EXPECTATIONS AMONG PEOPLE THAT THEY KNEW WOULD NOT BE REALIZED AND WHICH COULD LEAD TO OUTBURSTS AND HOSTILITY AMONG SOUTH AFRICA'S PEOPLES."

IN FACT, IF ANY INTERNAL CHANGE AT ALL HAS COME ABOUT, IT IT HAS BEEN IN THE DIRECTION OF INCREASED REPRESSION AND DENIAL OF BASIC FREEDOMS BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS HAS BEEN ILLUSTRATED BY THE ARRESTS LAST SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF MANY LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF BLACK ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING SASO (THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION) AND BPC (BLACK PEOPLES CONVENTION). THESE DETENTIONS OCCURRED FOLLOWING THE PEACEFUL GATHERING OF MANY INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE PART IN A RALLY WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO DISPLAY SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION OF MOZAMBIQUE AND FOR FRELIMO, THE MAJOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT THERE. ATTACKS ON THE GATHERING BY THE POLICE AND DOGS, SECURITY POLICE RAIDS, AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION OF SCORES OF BLACK PEOPLE FOLLOWED THIS GATHERING. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO MOVED IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO INCREASE RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

NOW THAT A TIMETABLE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE "TERRITORIES" HAS BEEN SET, THE ONLY REMAINING MINORITY-CONTROLLED AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO BE LIBERATED ARE ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. I AM CONFIDENT THAT ZIMBABWE WILL BE LIBERATED DURING 1975, IF NOT BY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH THE MAJORITY, THEN BY FORCE. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I FULLY ANTICIPATE THAT AN INTERNATIONALLY-ISOLATED SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS SO-CALLED PROTECTORATE OF NAMIBIA WILL NOT BE FAR BEHIND.

U.S. ACTION

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS CONTINUED REPRESSIVENESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME, U.S. REPRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS TO BRING ABOUT VIABLE CHANGE ARE CRUCIAL. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT

AS FOLLOWUP TO OUR STATEMENTS BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
IN THE DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPULSION FROM THE UNITED
NATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, OUR AMBASSADOR STATED:
" WE URGE THAT SOUTH AFRICA SIMULTANEOUSLY BEGIN TO
BRING AN END TO ITS APARTHEID POLICES AND ESTABLISH THE
BASIS FOR A JUST SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT WHERE ALL ARE EUQAL.
WE BELIEVE THAT AFTER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF WARNINGS,
IT IS TIME FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOERNMENT TO ADOTT THE
MEASURES THAT WILL LEAD TO A SOCIETY OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY,
EQUAL REWARDS, AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL...."
I CALL UPON OUR GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION URGENTLY AND ON A
PRIORITY BASIS TO ASSURE THAT SOUTH AFRICA SERIOUSLY BEGINS
TO INSTITUTE VIABLE CHANGES LEADING TO THE PARTICIPATION
OF THE MAJORITY IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY
BUT NOT IN SHAM " BANTUSTAN GOVERNMENT" - I.E. MAJORITY RULE.
FURTHER, I WILL CALL UPON MY GOVERNMENT TO ASURE:
(1) THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S PARACTICES IN THE ISSUING OF VISAS
BE RECIPROACTED: AND

(2) THAT AMBASSADOR HURD NOT BE REPLACED WHEN HIS ASSIGMENT
ENDS, AS A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT
WE ABHOR ITS RACIST POLICIES, THEREBY REDUCING THE LEVEL
OF OUR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. TEXT ENDS.
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